

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/944,075	FUKUZAWA ET AL.
	Examiner Tianjie Chen	Art Unit 2652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 09/10/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 8,9 and 23.
3. The drawings filed on 04 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08/18/2004 # _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Japanese Document in information disclosure statement filed 08/18/2004 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because no translation or concise explanation was attached. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609 ¶ C(1).

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to claim 8, as the closest reference, Sakakima et al (US 6,567,246) shows a magnetoresistive element wherein the layer having the oxide as the principal component contacts an opposite surface of the magnetization free layer to a non-magnetic layer, **but does not show** the contact is via a second non-magnetic layer.
- With regard to claim 23, as the closest reference, a combination of Gill (US 6,275,363) and Tan et al (US 5,962,080) shows a magnetoresistance effect element including: a magnetization fixed layer, a magnetization free layer, a non-magnetic intermediate layer, a high conductive layer being stacked on one side of the magnetization free layer remoter from the non-magnetic intermediate layer; and a non-magnetic layer provided on one side of the high conductive layer remoter from the magnetization free layer, **but fails to show** that the

current is applied between leads 13 in a direction parallel to the surfaces of two ferromagnetic layers.

- Applicant asserts that this second non-magnetic layer can reduce the magnetic field due to the current applied to the free layer (Specification, p. 34, lines 24-28).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Chen Tongye 10/06/2004
TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER